

CERTIFICATE

We certify that the votes cast on Voting Paper (66)2 were cast as set out above, that the proposal contained in that Voting Paper as Alternative B has been duly adopted under the plenary powers, and the decision so taken, being the decision of the International Commission, is truly recorded in the present Opinion No. 774.

G. OWEN EVANS

Secretary

W. E. CHINA

Assistant Secretary

International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature

London

2 May 1966

COMMENT ON *MITRA PERLATA* RÖDING, 1798, AS A *NOMEN OBLITUM*
Z.N.(S.) 1726

(see volume 22, page 334)

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I do not believe that the Commission needs to declare *Mitra perlata* Röding, 1798, as a *nomen oblitum*. In reality, it is a *nomen nudum*, since there is no description or figure reference. Cernohorsky argues that Röding gave this name to "*Voluta pertusa* Gmelin var.", and that since Röding had given the name *imperialis* to variety gamma, this meant (by "the process of elimination") that Röding's name *perlata* should apply to the only other variety, beta. On the same page, Röding applied another *nomen nudum* (*capucina*) to "Gmel. *Voluta pertusa*. sp. 93, varietas", so that there is doubt as to Röding's intentions.

Röding sometimes applied two names to the same species (or figure reference), and sometimes gave the same name to entirely different species (or figure references). To accept or acknowledge a Röding name "by the process of elimination" when it has no description or figure reference would open the door to hundreds of other names which have been, to date, considered as *nomina nuda*.

It should be pointed out that Knorr's vol. 2, pl. 4, fig. 6, leaves much to be desired, although it may be a smooth elongate form of *chrysostoma* Broderip, 1836, *ustulata* Reeve, 1844, or (according to Dautzenberg, 1935, *Mem. Mus. roy. Hist. nat. Belg.* 2 (17) : 63) *contracta* Swainson, 1821. Should some future worker find a valid name to Knorr's figure, I doubt if it could be more than a *nomen dubium* or *species inquirenda*.